



Public Health Preparedness and Situational Awareness Report: #2023:16

Reporting for the week ending 04/22/23 (MMWR Week #16)

April 28, 2023

The weekly Public Health Preparedness and Situational Awareness (PHPSA) Report provides a snapshot of disease throughout Maryland. This report looks for different types of illnesses or disease clusters which may warn of a larger public health issue, including the potential for a bioterrorism event.

Data is gathered from Maryland's Emergency Departments using the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE). Additional data is compiled from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Health Alert Network, the Maryland Department of Health Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), the World Health Organization, the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System, and the Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases (ProMED).

CURRENT HOMELAND SECURITY THREAT LEVELS

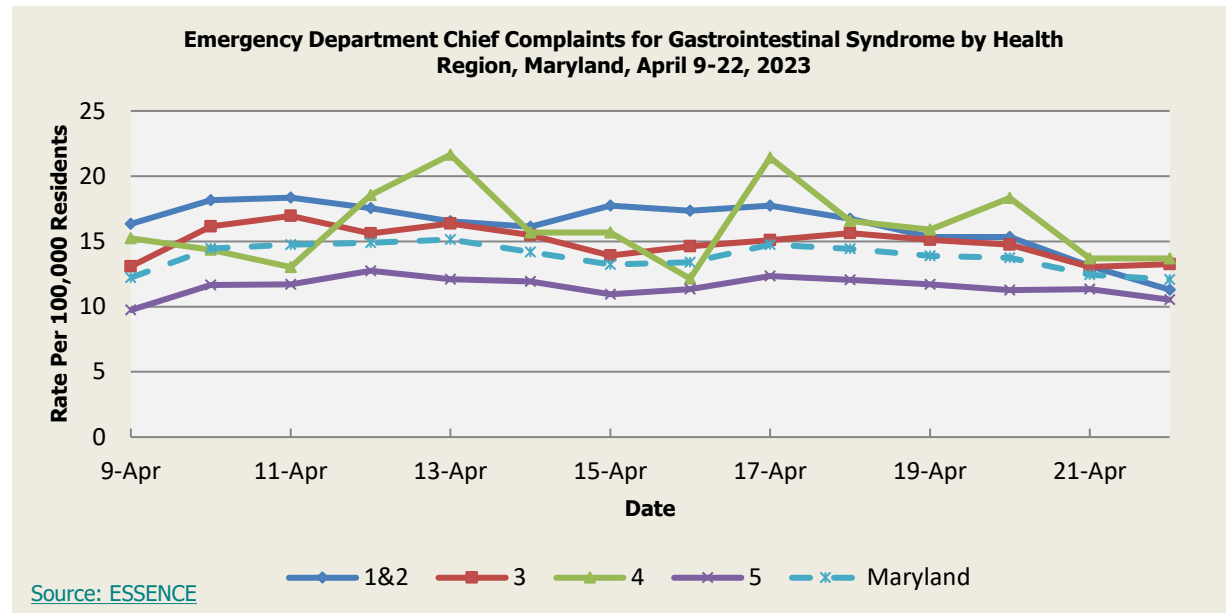
National:	No Active Alerts
Maryland:	Normal (MDEM status)

SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE REPORTS

ESSENCE (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics): Graphical representation is provided for all syndromes (excluding the “Other” category; see Appendix 1) by Health and Medical Regions (See Appendix 2). Emergency Department chief complaint data is presented as rates per 100,000 residents using data from the 2010 census. Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics (ESSENCE). Baltimore, MD: Maryland Department of Health; 2021.

Gastrointestinal Syndrome

There were three (3) Gastroenteritis outbreaks reported this week: One (1) outbreak of Gastroenteritis in an Assisted Living facility (Eastern), one (1) outbreak Gastroenteritis in Nursing Home (Southern), one (1) outbreak Gastroenteritis in a School (BMA).

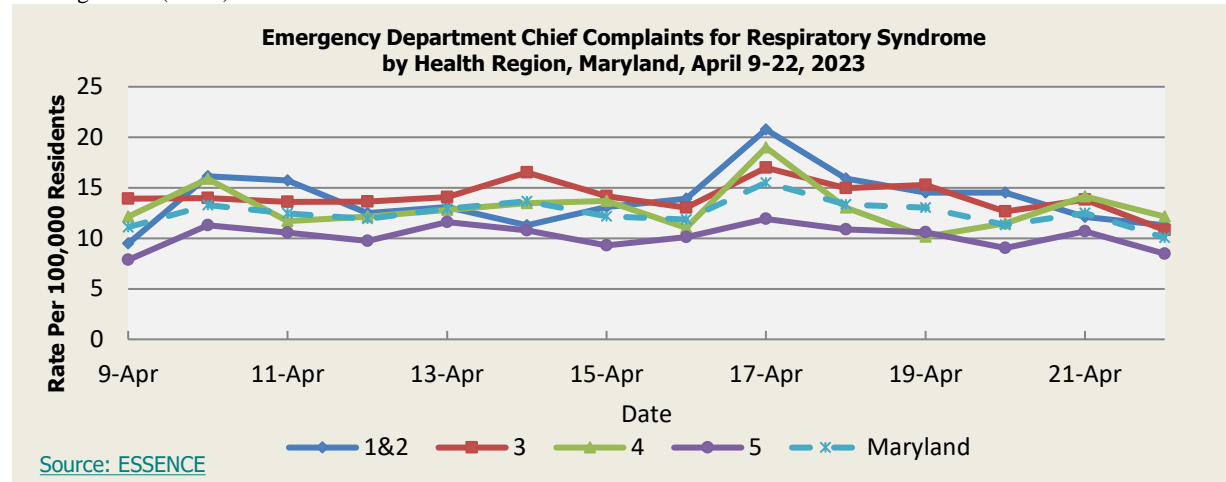


Gastrointestinal Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	13.26	14.68	16.08	10.17	12.94
Median Rate*	13.11	14.58	15.68	10.17	12.93

* Per 100,000 Residents

Respiratory Syndrome

Three (3) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities (BMA, NCR), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Correctional Facility (BMA), three (3) outbreaks of COVID-19 in a Daycare Facility (3 BMA), two (2) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Group Homes (BMA, NCR), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Hospital (BMA), nine (9) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Nursing Homes (BMA, NCR, Southern, Western), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a School (BMA) and one (1) outbreak of PNEUMONIA in a Nursing Home (BMA).

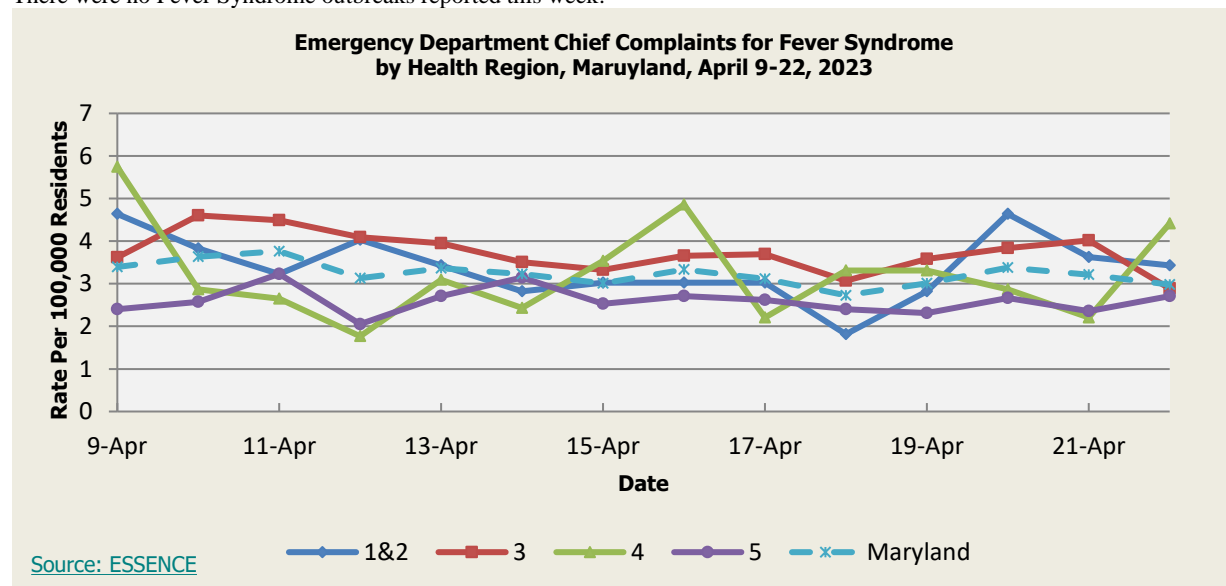


Respiratory Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	12.85	14.87	15.67	10.06	12.92
Median Rate*	12.50	14.21	14.91	9.65	12.38

* Per 100,000 Residents

Fever Syndrome

There were no Fever Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

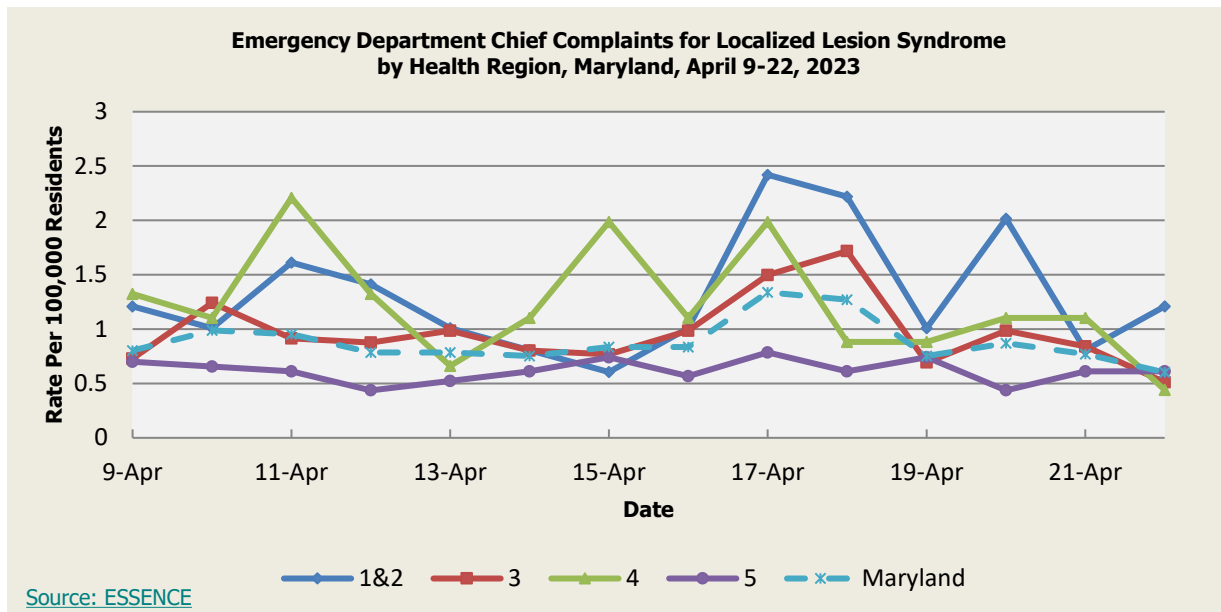


Fever Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	3.11	3.91	4.18	2.99	3.51
Median Rate*	3.02	3.76	3.97	2.88	3.40

**Per 100,000 Residents*

Localized Lesion Syndrome

There were no Localized Lesion Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

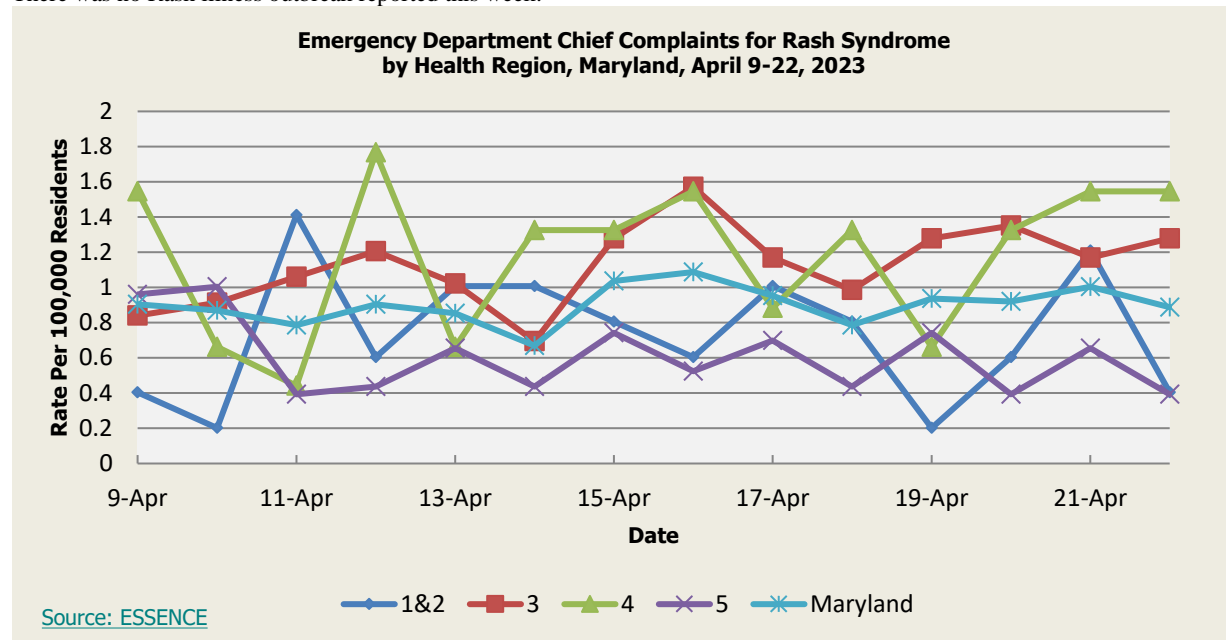


Localized Lesion Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	1.16	1.57	1.86	0.83	1.27
Median Rate*	1.01	1.53	1.77	0.79	1.22

* Per 100,000 Residents

Rash Syndrome

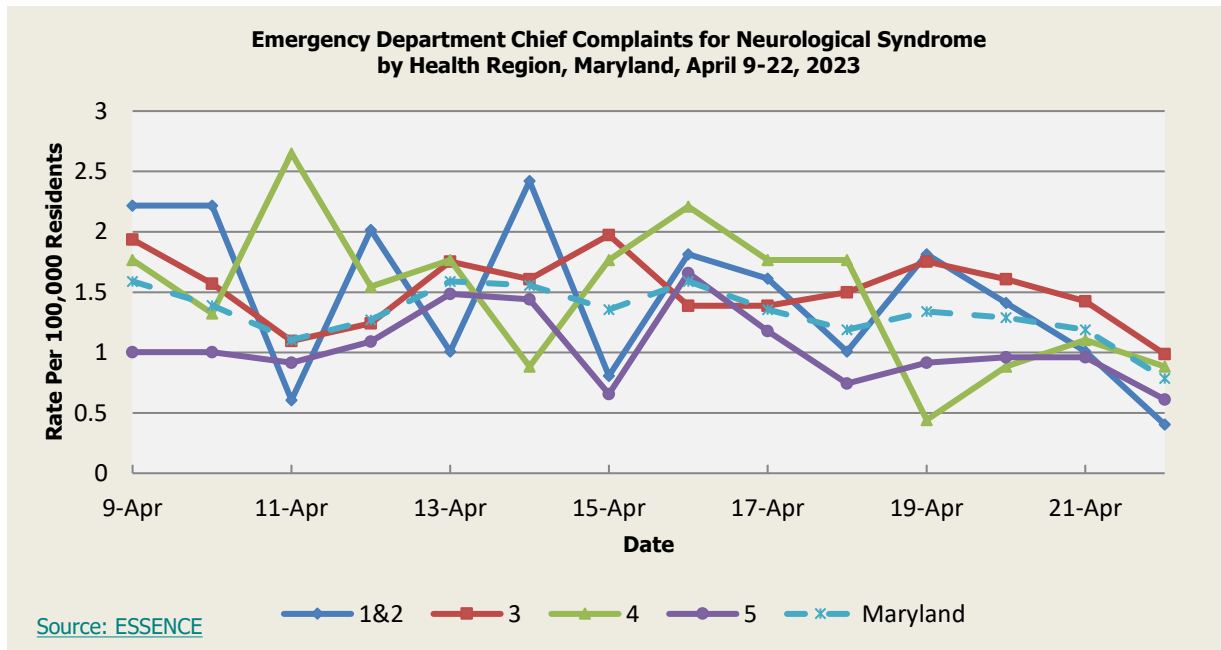
There was no Rash illness outbreak reported this week.



Rash Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	1.11	1.48	1.57	0.87	1.22
Median Rate*	1.01	1.42	1.55	0.83	1.20

* Per 100,000 Residents

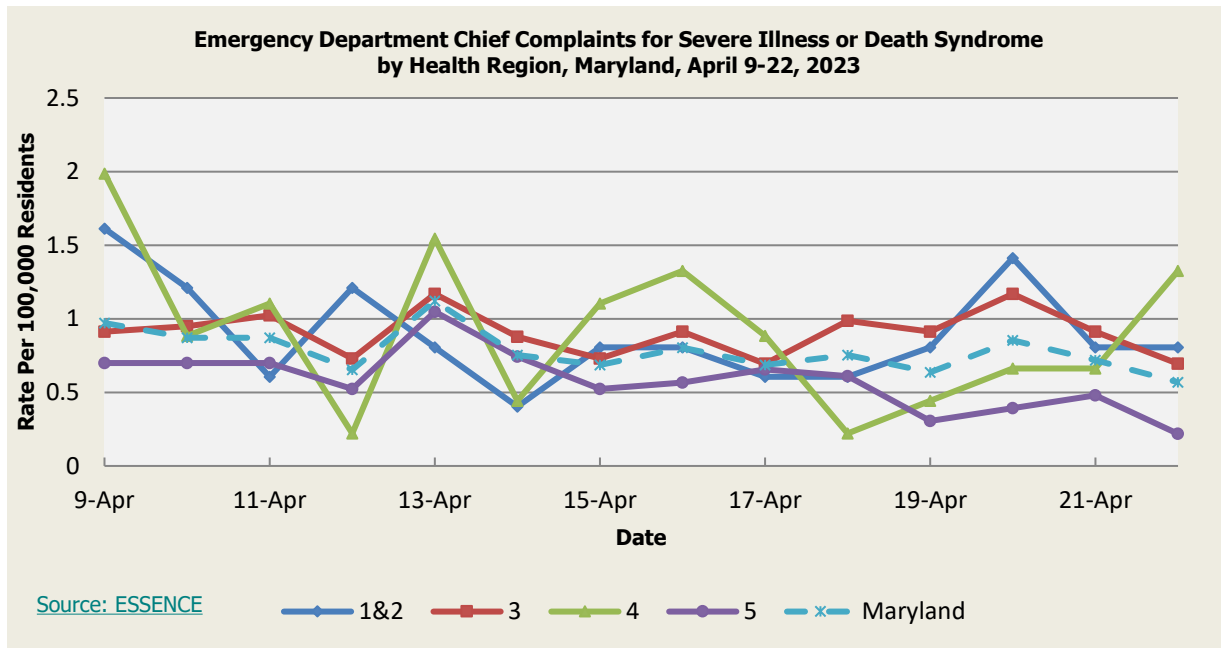
Neurological Syndrome



Neurological Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.89	1.11	1.04	0.72	0.94
Median Rate*	0.81	0.99	0.88	0.61	0.85

* Per 100,000 Residents

Severe Illness or Death Syndrome

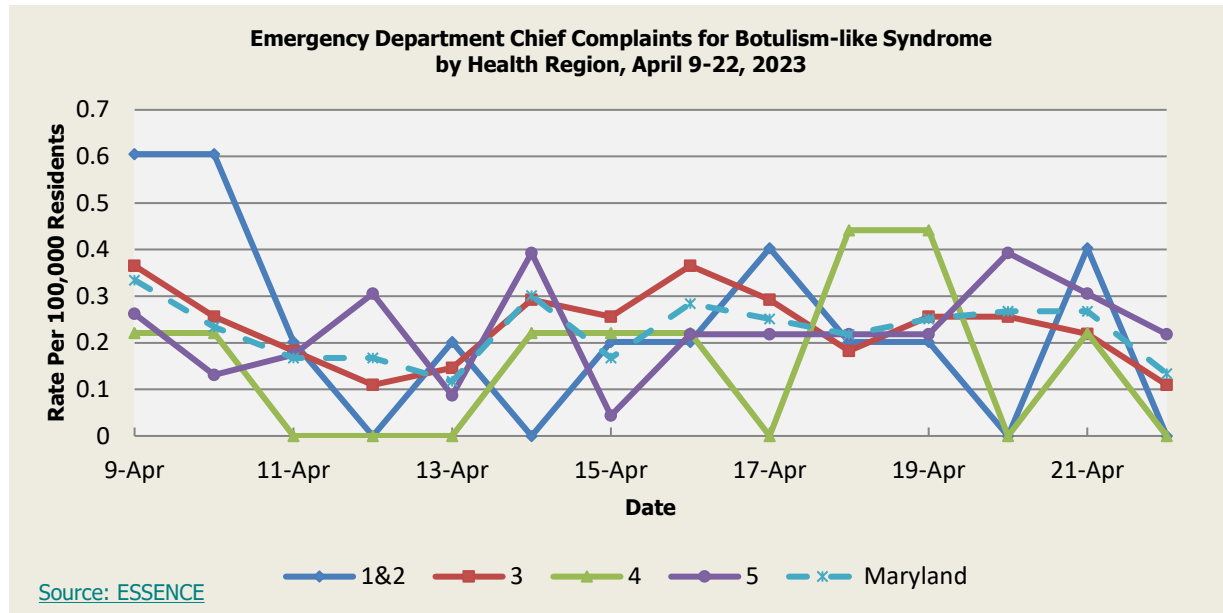


Severe Illness or Death Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.69	0.86	0.88	0.57	0.73
Median Rate*	0.60	0.80	0.88	0.52	0.72

* Per 100,000 Residents

SYNDROMES RELATED TO CATEGORY A AGENTS

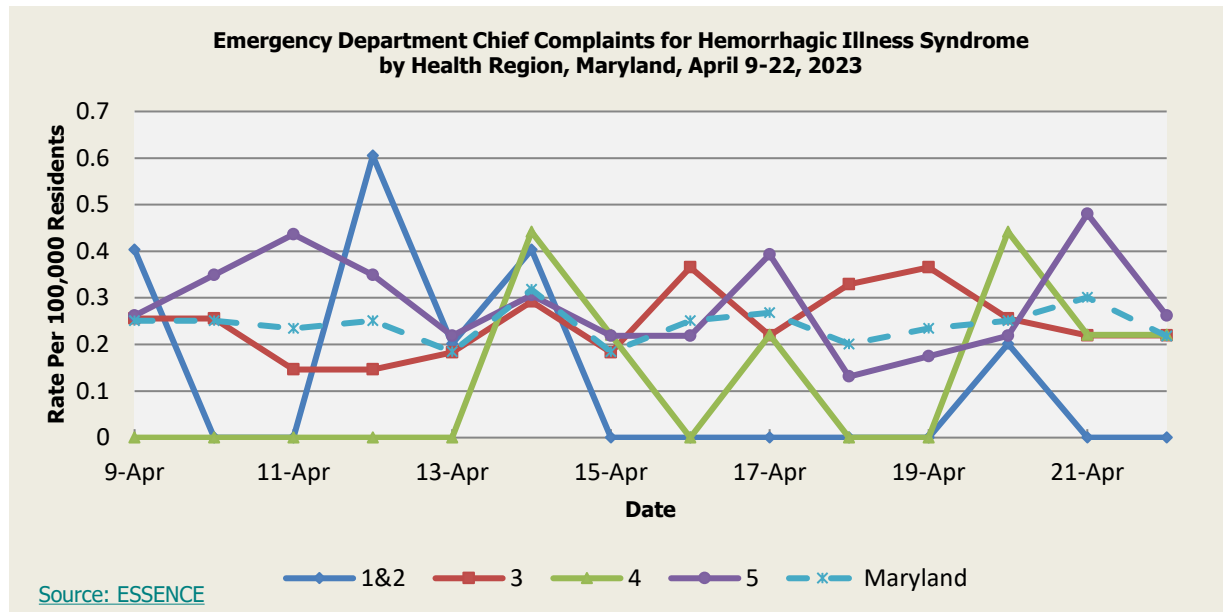
Botulism-like Syndrome



Botulism-like Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.09	0.15	0.08	0.11	0.13
Median Rate*	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.09	0.12

* Per 100,000 Residents

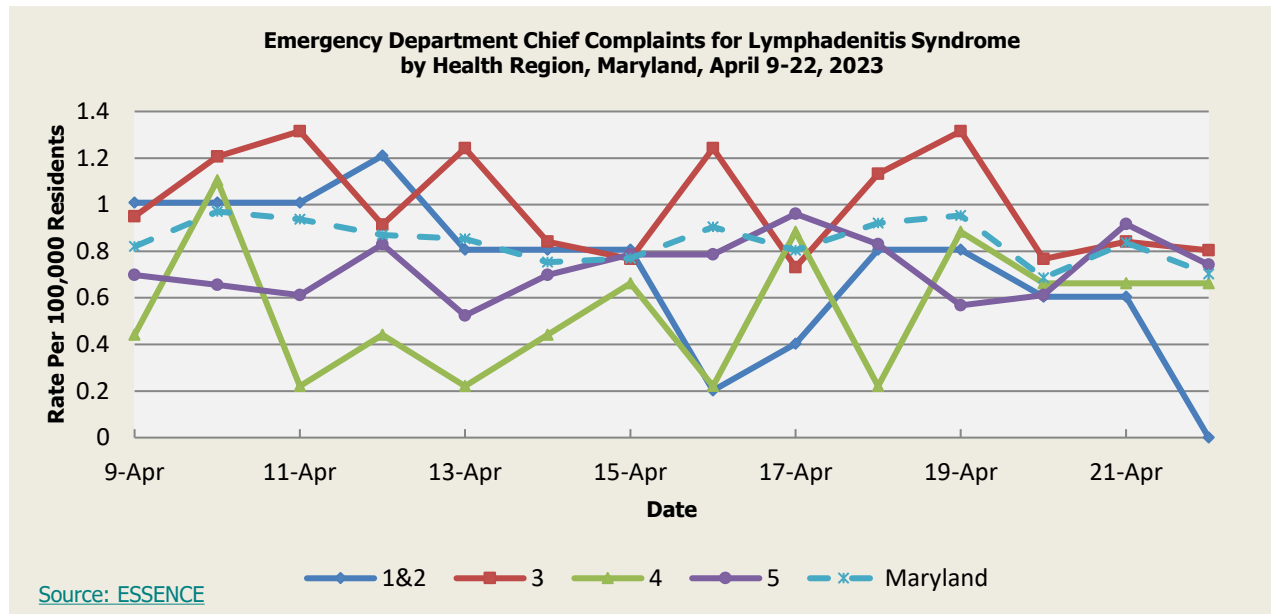
Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome



Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.06	0.18	0.05	0.17	0.16
Median Rate*	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.13	0.13

* Per 100,000 Residents

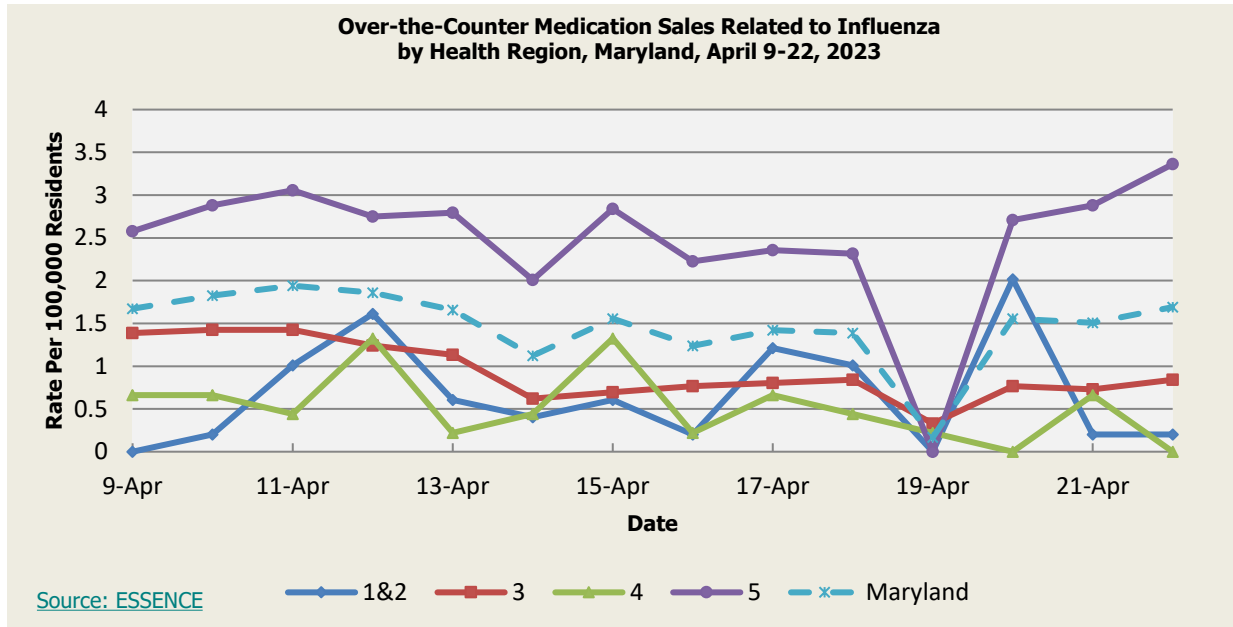
Lymphadenitis Syndrome



Lymphadenitis Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.45	0.64	0.44	0.44	0.53
Median Rate*	0.40	0.62	0.44	0.39	0.55

* Per 100,000 Residents

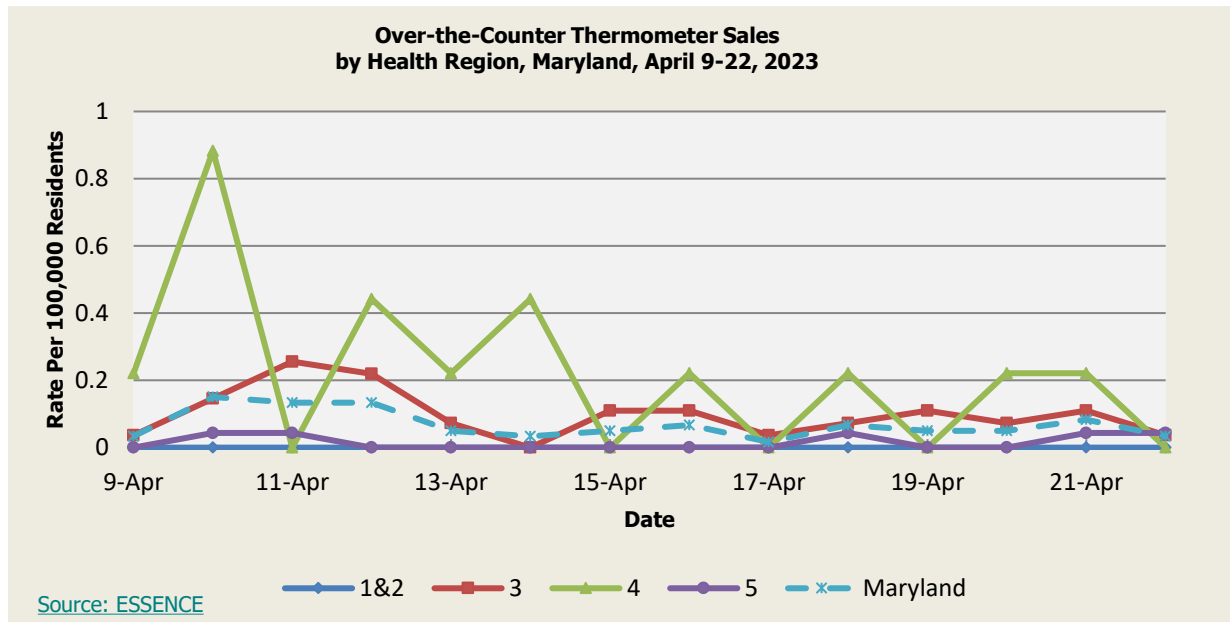
Over-the-Counter Influenza-Related Medication Sales



OTC Medication Sales Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	3.00	3.71	2.31	6.91	4.77
Median Rate*	2.22	2.63	1.99	5.76	3.70

* Per 100,000 Residents

Over-the-Counter Thermometer Sales



Thermometer Sales Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	2.31	2.19	1.85	2.87	2.43
Median Rate*	2.02	2.12	1.77	2.90	2.49

* Per 100,000 Residents

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA UPDATE / AVIAN INFLUENZA-RELATED REPORTS

WHO update: The current WHO phase of pandemic alert for avian influenza is ALERT. Currently, the avian influenza H5N1 virus continues to circulate in poultry in some countries, especially in Asia and northeast Africa. This virus continues to cause sporadic human infections with some instances of limited human-to-human transmission among very close contacts. There has been no sustained human-to-human or community-level transmission identified thus far.

Influenza A (H7N9) is one of a subgroup of influenza viruses that normally circulate among birds. Until recently, this virus had not been seen in people. However, human infections have now been detected. Presently, there is limited information about the scope of the disease the virus causes and about the source of exposure. The disease is of concern because most patients have been severely ill. There is no indication thus far that it can be transmitted between people, but both animal-to-human and human-to-human routes of transmission are being actively investigated.

Alert phase: This is the phase when influenza caused by a new subtype has been identified in humans. Increased vigilance and careful risk assessment, at local, national, and global levels are characteristic of this phase. If the risk assessments indicate that the new virus is not developing into a pandemic strain, a de-escalation of activities towards those in the interpandemic phase may occur. Globally, from January 2003 to April 2023, there have been 868 cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus reported from 21 countries. Of these 868 cases, 457 were fatal. Thus, the case fatality rate for human H5N1 is approximately 53%.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

AVIAN INFLUENZA: EUROPE (DENMARK), 27 April 2023, A flock of 30 000 chickens will be euthanized following an outbreak of bird flu in Denmark, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA) said. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8709738>

AVIAN INFLUENZA: AMERICAS (URUGUAY, CANADA, USA), 21 April 2023, North Dakota has its 1st confirmed case of bird flu this year [2023], and the first in a commercial poultry flock in 7 months. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8709633>

HUMAN AVIAN INFLUENZA

There were no relevant human avian influenza reports this week.

NATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS

MALARIA - USA: 27 April 2023, A 14-year-old Iowa middle schooler who earned the nickname "Cheetah" for his speed on the football field has died of the mosquito-borne disease malaria. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8709737>

LISTERIOSIS – USA (MICHIGAN), 26 April 2023, Federal officials are investigating but have not yet identified the source of a *Listeria* outbreak that has sickened people in multiple states, now including Illinois. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8709709>

BOTULISM - USA, 24 April 2023, Kawasho Foods USA Inc. of New York, NY, is announcing an expansion of its 26 Feb 2023 voluntary recall of canned Geisha Medium Shrimp 4 oz to now recall all lots of this product. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8709672>

HEPATITIS A - USA (PENNSYLVANIA), 22 April 2023, According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), in 2023, 46 confirmed hepatitis A cases were reported in Pennsylvania as of 8 Apr 2023, with 44 reported in the southeast region. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8709639>

SYPHILIS – USA: (NORTH CAROLINA), 21 April 2023, Syphilis cases in North Carolina are on the rise, increasing 23% from 2021 to 2022, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services reported. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8709627>

INTERNATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS

BIOHAZARD SITUATION – SUDAN, 27 April 2023, there is a "high risk of biological hazard" in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, after one of the warring parties seized a laboratory holding measles and cholera pathogens and other hazardous materials, the World Health Organization said on Tuesday. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8709724>

MARBURG VIRUS DISEASE - TANZANIA, 26 April 2023, In a follow-up on the Marburg virus disease (MVD) outbreak in Tanzania, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports on one additional case and death. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8709717>

ANTHRAX – UKRAINE, 26 April 2023, Russian soldiers contracted anthrax while digging trenches in the Zaporizhzhia region. During the preparation of the trenches, the occupiers accidentally dug up a cattle burial ground and contracted anthrax. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8709701>

STREPTOCOCCUS ZOOEPIDEMICUS - ITALY, 24 April 2023, Five people died in a recent outbreak in Italy linked to unpasteurized dairy products, according to a study [see citation below]. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8709680>

OTHER RESOURCES AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

More information concerning Public Health and Emergency Preparedness can be found at the Office of Preparedness and Response website: <http://preparedness.health.maryland.gov/> or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MarylandOPR.

More data and information on influenza can be found on the MDH website:
<http://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/fluwatch/Pages/Home.aspx>

More data and information on cumulative counts of confirmed human cases for avian influenza A(H5N1) reported to WHO, 2003-2023, 6 April 2023 can be found on the WHO website:
influenza can be found on the MDH website:
[https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/cumulative-number-of-confirmed-human-cases-for-avian-influenza-a\(h5n1\)-reported-to-who-2003-2022-26-jan-2023](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/cumulative-number-of-confirmed-human-cases-for-avian-influenza-a(h5n1)-reported-to-who-2003-2022-26-jan-2023)

Please participate in the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System (MRITS):
<http://flusurvey.health.maryland.gov>

NOTE: This weekly review is a compilation of data from various surveillance systems, interpreted with a focus on a potential BT event. It is not meant to be inclusive of all epidemiology data available, nor is it meant to imply that every activity reported is a definitive BT event. International reports of outbreaks due to organisms on the CDC Critical Biological Agent list will also be reported. While not "secure", please handle this information in a professional manner. Please feel free to distribute within your organization, as you feel appropriate, to other professional staff involved in emergency preparedness and infection control.

For questions about the content of this review or if you have received this and do not wish to receive these weekly notices, please e-mail us. If you have information that is pertinent to this notification process, please send it to us to be included in the routine report.

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Appendix 1: ESSENCE Syndrome Definitions and Associated Category A Conditions

Syndrome	ESSENCE Definition	Category A Conditions
Botulism-like	(Botulism or (DifficultyFocusing and DifficultySpeaking) or (DifficultySpeaking and DifficultySwallowing) or (DifficultySwallowing and DifficultyFocusing) or DoubleVision or FacialParalysis or GuillainBarre or Ptosis) and not GeneralExclusions	Botulism
Fever	(Chills or (FeverPlus and (Drowsiness or Seizure)) or FeverOnly or SepsisGroup or ViralSyndrome) and not GeneralExclusions	N/A
Gastrointestinal	(AbdominalCramps or AbdominalPainGroup or Diarrhea or FoodPoisoning or Gastroenteritis or GIBleeding or Peritonitis or Vomiting) and not (GeneralExclusions or Gynecological or Obstetric or Reproductive or UrinaryTract)	Anthrax (gastrointestinal)
Hemorrhagic Illness	(FeverOrChills and (AcuteBloodAbnormalitiesGroup or BleedingFromMouth or BleedingGums or GIBleeding or Hematemesis or Hemoptysis or Nosebleed or Petechiae or Purpura)) and not GeneralExclusions	Viral Hemorrhagic Fever
Localized Lesion	(Boils or Bump or Carbuncle or DepressedUlcer or Eschar or Furuncle or InsectBite or SkinAbscess or (SkinSores and not AllOverBody) or SkinUlcer or SpiderBite) and not (GeneralExclusions or Decubitus or Diabetes or StasisUlcer)	Anthrax (cutaneous) Tularemia
Lymphadenitis	(BloodPoisoning or Bubo or CatScratchDisease or SwollenGlands) and not GeneralExclusions	Plague (bubonic)
Neurological	(([Age<75] and AlteredMentalStatus) or (FeverPlus and (Confusion or Drowsiness or Petechiae or StiffNeck)) or Delirium or Encephalitis or Meningitis or UnconsciousGroup) and not GeneralExclusions	N/A
Rash	(ChickenPox or Measles or RashGeneral or Roseola or (Rubella and not Pregnancy) or Shingles or (SkinSores and AllOverBody) or Smallpox) and not GeneralExclusions	Smallpox
Respiratory	(Anthrax or Bronchitis or (ChestPain and [Age<50]) or Cough or Croup or DifficultyBreathing or Hemothorax or Hypoxia or Influenza or Legionnaires or LowerRespiratoryInfection or Pleurisy or Pneumonia or RespiratoryDistress or RespiratoryFailure or RespiratorySyncytialVirus or RibPain or ShortnessOfBreath or Wheezing) and not (GeneralExclusions or Cardiac or (ChestPain and Musculoskeletal) or Hyperventilation or Pneumothorax)	Anthrax (inhalational) Tularemia Plague (pneumonic)
Severe Illness or Death	CardiacArrest or CodeGroup or DeathGroup or (Hypotension and FeverPlus) or RespiratoryArrest or SepsisGroup or Shock	N/A

Appendix 2: Maryland Health and Medical Region Definitions

Health and Medical Region	Counties Reporting to ESSENCE
Regions 1 & 2	Allegany County Frederick County Garrett County Washington County
Region 3	Anne Arundel County Baltimore City Baltimore County Carroll County Harford County Howard County
Region 4	Caroline County Cecil County Dorchester County Kent County Queen Anne's County Somerset County Talbot County Wicomico County Worcester County
Region 5	Calvert County Charles County Montgomery County Prince George's County St. Mary's County

